Claims: Please amend the following claims 1 – 7:

[c1]1. (Currently amended) A method ~~and apparatus~~ for converting or translating descriptions of products encoded in the Universal Product Code (UPC) or Uniform Code Council 12 (UCC-12) format to the Electronic Product Code (EPC) format comprising: -

-a means of loading and storing registers; -

-and a means of multiplying, dividing, shifting or adding register contents.--

[c2]2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the operation of storage of a register involves only shift operations. --

[c3]3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the operation of storage of a register involves only multiplication or division operations. --

[c4]4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the operation of storage of a register involves a mix of multiplication, division, or shift operations. --

[c5]5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the entire operation of the method or parts of ~~it~~ the method are embodied within digital logic gates. --

[c6]6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the entire operations of the method or parts of ~~it~~ the method are embodied within a Hamiltonian or other matrix operation. --

[c7]7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein all values to be incorporated into the resulting EPC code are extracted from input and from the UPC code before being incorporated, via a single bit-field storage command into the target EPC storage range. ---